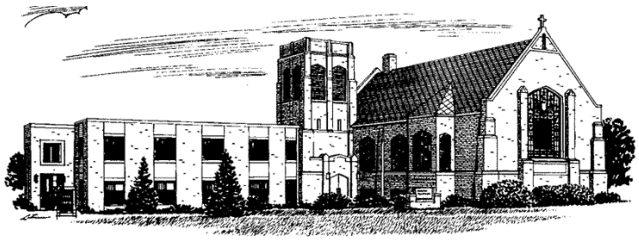


The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

January 2014

It's over a week until Christmas and the decorations in the stores are already half off!

It's over a week until Christmas and we are writing and thinking about the weeks after Christmas!

Yet, before it's "all over" we celebrate the incarnation – God sharing our humanity in Jesus. And, if Christmas is about incarnation – God coming down to us in Jesus – then the celebration is nowhere close to "all over!" The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us..in our homes, in our hearts, in our neighborhoods, and in our world. God comes to us in the bread and wine at the Lord's table, in the cleansing waters of the font, and in community when we gather to be the church with and for each other.

So, let's celebrate Christmas today and every day! Let's celebrate wherever we are found. Let's *joyfully celebrate and share God's love for all!!!*

Pastor Joan

New Members will be received in January. Please contact Pastor if you are interested in joining Saron.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arlene Malkin** is at the Lakeland Continuing Care Center, 3425 Lakeshore Dr., St. Joseph MI 49085; **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ruth Harris** is at Lakeland's Berrien Center Campus, 6418 Dean's Hill Road; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Elvera Freier** is at Crownpointe Senior Living, Stevensville; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Updated College Addresses Needed

Please contact the office with mailing addresses for your College Students and Active Military members. We'd like to stay in touch.

Serving in the military:

Ed Standen – Charleston, SC
Marko Wedde – North Carolina
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in January Birthday Wishes

Jan. 2 - Betty Ross
Sophie de la Foret
3 – Richard Schalon
4 - Zachery Booth
Kathleen Preston
5 – Heather Hall
9 - Anthony Kickles, Jr.
13 - Nicholas Jantz
14 - T. J. Koehler
15 - Meredith Hammer
Pat Breyen
Walter Schmuhl
Colin Ashley
18 - Hayley Frey
19 – Kathie Nadeau
23 - Carol Siewert
Patricia Young
24 - Lyra Krall
25 – Karen Johnson
28 – Kimberly Crum
29 – Patrick Ashley
31 - Cathleen Knauf

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in January …

Jan. 1- Charles and Linda Pater
19 – Steve and Denise Cook

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Annual Meeting

Saron's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2014. A potluck will follow the 11:00 worship and the meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm. All voting members of Saron are encouraged to attend, as we adopt a spening plan for 2014, receive reports, and hold elections.

We're working on a new church directory!

Please make sure we have your current information –
street address, phone number, and e-mail address.
Please check the draft copy in the narthex and "OK" it or make corrections.
We'd like to include YOU!
Thank You

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

Baptism of Our Lord
January 12
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 19
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (8)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Prayer

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which will include lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Thank you to Marcus, Irma, and the choir for all your wonderful music!

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Time to Renew The Lutheran Magazine

Those that have been enjoying The Lutheran magazine this past year or those who would like to begin receiving The Lutheran will be able to purchase or renew for the price of **$9.00** a year. Please make out a check to Saron and write **"The Lutheran"** in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope with your name, amount enclosed and place "The Lutheran" on an envelope. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that you will begin receiving or continue receiving without a lapse in your monthly subscription.

Sunday School Christmas Program
"Good News, Great Joy"

With thanks to Wendy King for her leadership, teachers Amanda, Kristen, and Katie, musicians Marcus and Mary Alice, parents and students for their work and sharing of the Christmas story through word and song.

Did you know that our Sunday School children were the photographers of the JOY video that was shown during the program?

Join us on Sundays at 9:40 for our learning hour, ages 2 years through adults.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on January 4th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

High School and Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:40 in the lounge. Presently, we are watching the DVD series entitled *Lost Christianities* which considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Join us again in January when we continue our study on the book of Revelation. Join us on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00am beginning January 9.

1st Sunday Book Club

Our next meeting will be on February 9th, which is the second Sunday in February. Note the change of date. The book will be **Saturday** by Ian McEwan. Come join us and bring a friend. We guarantee a good discussion, with shared opinions of the book, which in turn leads to many other shared opinions on connected topics.
Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Upcoming selections for 2014 are:
February 9 (note, 2nd Sunday); Saturday, by Ian McEwan
March 2; The Light Between Oceans, by M.L. Stedman
April 6; Wild, by Cheryl Strayed
May 4; Room , by Emma Donoghue
October 5; The End of Your Life Book Club, by Will Schwalbe

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

Saron's day to serve at the Soup Kitchen is the 4th Thursday of the month, 9 months of the year. In November, the following people helped serve Thanksgiving dinner – John & Pam Olson, Ruth Ball, and the Eric Standen family. 111 people were served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings! We have so many blessings in our lives and are thankful we can share them with others in our community.

Donations of cans of fruit, large or small,are always welcome and needed for our days at the kitchen. Please bring your contributions to the church. Thank you! Also, 28-30 dozen cookies are needed each month!!! So, if you like to bake..... , call me!!

Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044

Meet Me at the Freezer

Meals are available for anyone to take to someone who might need one. Enjoying a visit and providing a meal is a wonderful way to tell someone that YOU CARE! The meals are in the freezer in Saron's dining room! If you would like to be involved when we cook again, please contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044.

Used Eye Glass Collection

Thank you Saron Lutheran Church! With your kind donation of eye glasses the St. Joseph Township Lions were able to collect 5641 eye glasses this year, we collected the most in our district and came in second for members in the club per glass count. Our collecting doesn't stop here, we are still collecting for next years challange. So, if you have any used eye glasses that are just sitting around collecting dust, bring them to church and put them in the box. Thanks,
Keith Stevens

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

THANK YOU!!
A big thank you to all who participated in Saron's SERRV sale. The purchase of items helped support artisans and farmers, impoverished families, and developing communities around the world. In addition Saron was able to donate $189.97 to E.L.C.A. World Hunger.

Starbucks + College Students + Saron =Loving Church Support!

Our college students were recently sent a Starbucks gift card and a card signed by Saron members. It was just a little way to let our students know that they are in our thoughts and prayers, especially during Exam Week.

Some thank you cards were received and are posted on the narthex bulletin board. The notes included messages such as: "Thank you for all your prayers" "It's a blessing to have the support of the congregation" "I am so blessed to have found my path and even more blessed for my Saron family who has always supported me" "I know that my faith in Jesus Christ will always get me to where I need to be"

Flowers for Worship

Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. You can pick up your flowers after worship on Sunday morning. The florist appreciates the return of the vases for future use.

Women of the ELCA

SARON CHURCH WOMEN BAKE SALE -
Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the Bake Sale held on December 8th, 2013. The total proceeds came to $585.60, all for the Mentor Family Fund. Thanks again, everyone!

Thanks, also, for the continued donations for the fund on December 15, totaling an additional $65.00. Mentor Family Fund donations are accepted throughout the year.

Deborah Circle's Christmas Party potluck will be held at the home of Mary Kynast. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone should bring a dish to pass **(not dessert**) and also a monetary gift for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Carpooling will leave from Saron at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, January 12 , 2014 Saron Church Women Officers and Leaders will be installed. They are:
President: Melanie McCammon
Vice President: Linda Pater
Secretary: Janet Oleson
Treasurer: Denise Cook
Mission: Action Chair: Colleen Lundgren
CWU Representative: (**someone needed**)
Deborah Circle Chair: Melanie McCammon
Dorcas Circle Chair: Marybeth Culverhouse

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments
Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. We like to have something after both early and late services. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

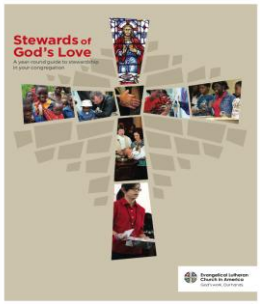
What a great time!
Attending the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and providing a cast part afterward was a wonderful fellowship occasion. Thanks to Mary Kynast and Joyce Marquardt for coordinating the event and to everyone who helped in any way.

The play was directed by Saron's John Taylor and musical director was Saron's Beth Gray-Roll. Congratulations to both on a fine performance!

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving
If you know you'll be missing services any time during the year due to travel, living in another location during certain times of the year or other commitments, please consider setting up automatic contributions. Your consistent support is very much appreciated. Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thanks.

Interested in stories of the ELCA at work?
Check out *http://www.elca.org/living-lutheran/* to read daily conversations about what it means to live Lutheran. **Living Lutheran**, a ministry of the ELCA, includes blogs, videos and member voices.



Stewards of God's Love

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

January: Stewards of the Story

*"Stories are powerful! As disciples of Jesus, we experience God alive in God's story, the Bible. God's gospel story is written on our hearts and alive in us. How might we be good stewards of God's story and our own stories of God's work in our lives?"**

If each of us thinks of ourselves as "Stewards of the Story", where have we seen God at work in our lives this week? Have we fed someone, or clothed someone, or helped someone find shelter? Have we helped someone in need? Have we loved our neighbor as ourselves? OR how has someone helped us in some way this week? Kindnesses shown to each other are powerful testimonies of God's love coming DOWN to us and at work in us. As Stewards of God's Love may we show Christ in our lives. ** www.elca.org/growingstewards, page 16*

Council News

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

Attendance Record	
11/24/2013	*89*
12/01/2013	*94*
12/08/2013	*98*
12/15/2013	*114*

Saron's Council Members – January 2013

Dave Bradley (427-7083) – President
*Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President, Outreach**
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer, Support
John Taylor (515-720-2124) – Secretary, Worship, Youth*
*Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities**
*Wendy King (429-2701) – Learning**
*Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth**
*Connor Ashley – (269-282-6709) – Youth**
*John Hoodlebrink (408-1960) – Support**
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Hospitality, Worship*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Hospitality, Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office; 983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Facilities

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meet every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon.
They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money yearly in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren or Bill Oleson.

Lay Assistants for January - 2014

Jan. 5 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Com.Assist: Sue Rood
Acolyte: Brandon Burrow
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Jan. 12 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader/Intinction: Wendy King
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and John Olson
Acolyte: Carter Hohman
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Jan. 19 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader/ Com. Assist: Marilyn Frey
Acolyte: Tim Standen
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Jan. 26 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minster: Sue Rood
Reader/Intinction: Steve Bell
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Ushers: Jim Manore and Allen Snyder

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.

Jan. 5 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Com.Assist: Colleen Lundgren
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Peter and Karen Johnson
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Klann
Building Closing: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

Jan. 12 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Drew Huff
Reader/Intinction: Laurel Gacek
Ushers: Jerry and Ruth Stelling
Acolyte: Connor Ashley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Judi Huff
Building Closing: **Ivan and Darlene Kiessel**

Jan. 19 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/ Com. Assist: Dan Fortenbacher
Acolyte: Drew Huff
Ushers: Jack and Cheryl Houser
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Betty Appel
Building Closing: **Ken Ark**

Jan. 26 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minster: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Bob Kynast
Acolyte: Colin Ashley
Ushers: Ken Ark and Ivan Kiessel
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing: **Bob and Mary Kynast**

Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2014

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

January 2014

	December 2013	February				
	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	*1* *New Year's Day*	*2* 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	*3*	*4* 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
5 H.Com./Children's Service *2nd Sunday of Christmas* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes **NO** 1st Sunday Book Group	*6* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group ***Annual Report Articles Due***	*7*	*8* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle Christmas Party potluck	*9* 9:30 a.m Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	*10*	*11*
12 Intinction/Childern's Ser. *Baptism of Our Lord* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 11:00 am Installation of Saron Church Women Officers 12:00 p.m. Youth Event	*13* **Newsletter Articles Due** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	*14*	*15* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*16* 9:30 a.m Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	*17*	*18*
19 H.Com./Children's Service *2nd Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	*20* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	*21* **NO** Vasa Meeting	*22* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*23* 9:30 a.m Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal Soup Kitchen Day	*24*	*25*
26 Intinction/Childern's Ser. *3rd Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 12:00 p.m. Potluck 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting	*27* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Pastor at Synod Leadership Event	*28*	*29* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*30* 9:30 a.m Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	*31*	